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Excerpt from *Vampyroteuthis infernalis*: His Art

In this excerpt from his hybrid text of philosophical fiction, Vilém Flusser examines the history and future of human art and communication from the perspective of a giant deep-sea squid, the *Vampyroteuthis infernalis*. Fictionalizing some of the accepted biological details about the extant species of squid, Flusser oscillates between an encyclopedic description of the animal's anatomical and behavioral characteristics and a cultural history of human art making. He proposes the world of the *Vampyroteuthis* as a model for human communication in the age of television, film and digital images. With his skill for de-familiarizing everyday aspects of human life, Flusser holds the molluscan creature up to his reader as a mirror in which human behavior can be considered from an opposing, almost inhuman perspective.

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